November 27, 1963
2:45 p.m.

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TEEEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND LOUIS SELTZER (from Mr. Seltzer)

LS: Hello, Mr. President

LBJ Glad to hear from you

LS Very good...I hope I did not intrude on some urgent matter.

LBJ Not at all, I'm just sitting here talking to Houston Harte of the Harte Newspapers in Texas and getting ready to see the Prince from Cambodia and the Assistant Secretary of State..I'm mighty glad you called.

LS Well now, here's the reason I am calling..and if you've got just one minute, I'll try to express myself as clearly as I can. In my time, which covers a half a century in ...and a good number of Presidents...I along with everybody else have heard Presidents talk under a great number of circumstances..some of them trying..some of them in crisis..but this noon I determined that I was going to go out to my home and sit quietly with mine...because I had to listen to you...had the intuitive feeling that by the manner in which you did this...and what you said..that youre going to create a very lasting impression one way or the other..on the American people. Now the reason I picked this telephone up to call you is that I do not remember in all of my time..when any Preis dent of the United States ..so recently assuming his very heavy responsibilities.. did so impressive and tremendous a job as you did just a few moments ago..and I could not resist the temptation of calling you. That's the sum total of my call.

LBJ Well you don't know how much strength that gives me..not only because o: my high regard for you but I was up till 2:30 this morning..and I tried so hard to pay just tribute and still let the country know that I had some thoughts of my own and that we were going to be prudent, frugal, progressive people but we were ...going to be in charge.

LS Well I think Mr. President that you accomplished all those things from th: moment you walked down the aisle to the rostrum...all through your address..and on the way out..including your quick look up at Mrs. Johnson and your daughters in the balcony..all the way through..I think you did one of the most extraordinarily earnest and impressive jobs I have ever seen in the image that you succeeded in driving through the screen today all over America..in my judgment was wonderful for the country and good for you.

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LBJ Well, I hope it works out that way..because all I wanted ..all I want to do is try to do a good job for all America and all people regardless of their politics or their race or their religion or anything else. I just want us all to be Americans..I think we've got too much hate and too much division...too much partisanship and I'm glad we've got men like you and I'll be calling on you and any time you think I need a little straightening out..please sit down and write me frankly because you've been my friend for a good many years.

LS Mr. President, I appreciate that and I just wanted to reiterate once again just as honestly as I can and at the same time, even under the trying circumstances, to hope that you and your family have a nice Thanksgiving. I just want to say that in one half hour today, you did for the United States of America as a very critical job..something that I did not ...three hours ago I thought you had probably one of the most difficult challenges any human being ever faced and I think you did it with just superb and just magnificent way and I think that you did again, a great service for this country and I think the image that you created for yourself is going to last all..for all times.

LBJ Thank you, Louis, so much and I'll be seeing you and call me when you come into town.

LS You bet I will and goodluck to you all the way down.

LBJ Goodbye

LS Goodbye

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
LOUIS SELTZER NOVEMBER 27, 1963

Mr. Seltzer: "....In my time, which covers a half a century... and a good number of Presidents...I do not remember ....when any President did so impressive and tremendous a job as you did just a few moments ago...from the moment you walked down the aisle to the rostrum...I think you did one of the most extraordinarily earnest and impressive jobs I have ever seen... was wonderful for the country and good for you...."

The President thanked him and said: "...All I want to try to do is a good job for all America and all people regardless of their politics or their race or their religion or anything else... I think we've got too much hate and too much division...and I'm glad we've got men like you and I'll be calling on you..."

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